

SENATE, No. 598

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gopal

SYNOPSIS

Requires NJ to join U.S. Climate Alliance to uphold Paris Climate Accord.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/23/2018)

1 **AN ACT** requiring New Jersey to join the United States Climate
2 Alliance, and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The State shall join the United States Climate Alliance and
8 uphold the Paris Climate Accord, lower greenhouse gas emissions,
9 and address the threats posed by climate change in accordance with
10 the goals established therefor by the alliance.

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12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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17 This bill would require New Jersey to join the United States
18 Climate Alliance, a group formed to pursue policies to uphold the
19 United States' commitments to the Paris Climate Accord in order to
20 address the threats posed by climate change. The group was formed
21 by the Governors of California, New York, and Washington after
22 President Trump announced his intention to withdraw from the
23 Paris Climate Accord.

24

25 The Paris Climate Accord, joined by 195 countries, sets forth a
26 five-year goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature
27 below 2 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels and aims to
28 limit the increase in average global temperature to 1.5 degrees
29 centigrade above pre-industrial levels. The signatories to the
30 agreement also pledge to undertake rapid reductions in greenhouse
31 gases thereafter in accordance with best available science. Before
32 and during the Paris conference, countries submitted comprehensive
33 national climate action plans. Since the formation of the U.S.
34 Climate Alliance, the Governors of Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii,
35 Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and
36 Virginia, as well as the Governor of Puerto Rico and the Mayor of
37 the District of Columbia joined the alliance. Hundreds of mayors,
38 business leaders, and university presidents have committed to honor
39 the goals of the Paris agreement as well. The United States Climate
40 Alliance is committed to upholding the Paris Climate Accord and
41 reducing greenhouse gases in order to address the threats posed by
42 climate change.

43

44 Current member states of the U.S. Climate Alliance comprise 36
45 percent of the United States population and over 30 percent of the
46 United States gross domestic product. The United States' goal
47 under the Paris Climate Accord was to reduce national emissions by
48 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.